

I support this petition and request the FCC maintain Morse requirements for General and Extra licenses. What the rest of the world does in this area is really of little consequence to the United States. The continued lowering of the "bar" for Amateur Radio will surely lead this service down the slippery slope taken by the Citizens Band.

If applicants truly want to gain access to the broad expanse of the Amateur Radio Service, they should be willing to meet increasing levels of complexity in that pursuit. This proposal (RM-10811) allows for most of the digital mode accessibility that seems to draw some new amateur operators, thereby eliminating the need for most to expand their operating privileges.

Finally, I don't for a minute believe that the thrust for elimination of Morse Code as a requirement is so much about an "outdated mode" as it is about getting something for nearly nothing. I welcome anyone who is interested in electronic communications to the Amateur Radio Service, at any level that they wish to achieve, but I believe that they must achieve to get there.

I haven't addressed the technical or communications aspects of this proposal because I believe that they stand on their own merit. I would only suggest that we open up the proposed new digital hf privileges to entry-level Technician Class licensees and then see if the Morse Code qualification requirement need be eliminated, and also take action to make the higher license classes worth achieving.

Respectful thanks for your attention.